



THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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A night of culture in Papiamento from Fundacion Lanta Papiamento



Officers and member of flp foundation board. L.-r.: Etley Lasten, Bertha Wolff, Joyce Periera and Ramon Todd Dandare

The year 2013 has been officially declared "The Year of Papiamento" by Aruba's Ministry of Culture. Fundacion Lanta Papiamento, (FLP) which has promoted the eloquent use of the language in the arts and encourages its development and elevation, has been conducting monthly events to enlighten the public of its use in the arts.

A very successful cultural evening was conducted at Aruba's public library in Oranjestad on February 21, in honor of the UNESCO International Day of the Mother Tongue. The critical acclaim for the event has prompted the foundation to organize another entertaining cultural evening this coming Saturday, April 13, to take place at the Don Bosco Club in Noord, adjacent to the Santa Ana Church.

FLP President Joyce Periera and Vice-President Ramon Todd Dandare were joined by Treasurer Etley Lasten and P/R Officer Bertha Wolff in extending an invitation to all those interested in Papiamento, to come and enjoy the full use of the language in the arts.

The evening will include recitations by several poets and authors writing in Papiamento,

as well as a music and dance program choreographed by Jhon Freddy Montoya of the Department of Culture. Some of the authors, poets and actors making presentations include: Gwendy Sneek, Frank Williams, Maritza Everon, Caresse Isings, Ruthy Vrieswijk, Martica Lugay, Emerita Emerencia, Mario Christiaans, Titi Tromp, Mirzah Gomez and Oswaldo Correa. The evening will end with a musical jam led by Tito Ruiz.

All through the rest of the year, FLP will be conducting monthly events dedicated to Aruba's official language, Papiamento, in various neighborhoods around the island. The message is to not only take pride in the language, but also improve it.

Coming events include:

May 21; A symposium celebrating ten years of Papiamento as an recognized language

June 23; Zumba in Papiamento

June 25; Celebration of Dera Gay

July 1: Art Exposition marking 150 years since the abolition of slavery

September: Marking 60 years since UNESCO recognized the significance of "Mother Tongues"

nized the significance of "Mother Tongues"

September 30: Celebrating 35 years of the Department of Culture

November: Eastern Caribbean Island Cultures Conference "Island in Between"

November 22: Festival of composition in Papiamento

December: Close of the "Year of Papiamento" with final of the writing contest

Several of the events will include screening of such classic films in Papiamento as "Zuleika," "Almacita Desolado," by noted filmmakers Norman de Palm and Felix de Rooi, as well as the award-winning "Awa Brak," and "10 Ave Maria," by young Aruban filmmakers.

This coming Saturday's event begins at 7:0 PM and is scheduled to finish at 10:30 PM. Admission is 5 Aruban florins, which assists the FLP in their efforts.

Rosalie Klein



US senators reach deal on gun-sale background checks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Yesterday US senators announced a landmark bipartisan compromise that would expand background checks to all commercial firearm sales, in what could result in the most ambitious change to American gun laws since 1994.

The deal comes four months after the Connecticut school massacre that took the country's epidemic of gun violence to an alarming new level. Twenty small children were slaughtered by a deranged shooter, as were six staffers.

The amendment would see background checks -- the core of President Barack Obama's push for stronger gun safety measures -- expanded to include all sales made at gun shows and on the Internet, said the deal's architects, Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican Pat Toomey.

"We have an agreement... on an amendment to prevent criminals and the mentally ill and insane from getting firearms," Manchin, from the pro-

gun state of West Virginia, said as he unveiled the measure.

Toomey, from Pennsylvania, where several rural communities support gun rights, appeared to poke a hole in the argument that any gun safety measures should be viewed as an infringement of the constitutional right to bear arms.

"I don't consider criminal background checks to be gun control," said Toomey, who like Manchin is a gun owner and avid hunter. "I think it's just common sense. If you pass a criminal background check, you get to buy a gun."

Their amendment, crafted with the help of veteran Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer from New York as well as Republican Mark Kirk from Illinois, where the largest city Chicago is awash in gun violence, stops short of the universal background checks sought by Obama in the aftermath of Newtown.

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NEW YORK -- Individuals dressed as children's characters wait to pose for tips on April 10, 2013 in Times Square in New York City. Part of a growing trend of street performers and hawkers, dozens of individuals can be found around Times Square dressed in costume as well-known characters busking for money. The behavior of many of these individuals has come into question lately as incidents of fights, smoking and swearing have resulted in confrontations and arrests. As the characters classify themselves as street performers, they are protected by first amendment rights and cannot be forcibly removed from the streets. (AFP)

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Marriott Dir. of Sales & Marketing Antoinette van den Berg thanks the ATCA participants for their support.

Big hair, large sun glasses, bright colorful décor and groovy beats set the ambience for Marriott's 70s/80s welcome reception for the Annual Tourism Conference Aruba (ATCA). Over 80 ATCA delegates including the top wholesalers, travel agents and airline partners gathered annually in Aruba to network with the Aruba Hotels and Tourism Association (AHATA) members and Aruba's Destination Management companies.

The Aruba Marriott brought back the 70s/80s theme with the groovy sounds of live band "the TRAMPS" and DJ Miniteca N.B. Participants danced the night away and enjoyed the delicious food.

Marriott's Director of Sales & Marketing Antoinette van den Berg and Hotel Manager Matt Knights welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continuous support in Aruba and the Marriott.

The ATCA conference ends today April 11.

Aruba now has Obligatory Education: What does this mean?



ORANJESTAD -- Obligatory education is one of the articles of the Rights of the Child. In that treaty it is stated... "every child has the right to an education." Because the child is a minor, it is the parents and government who must ensure that the child goes to school.

Who falls under the obligatory education law?

Obligatory education applies only to children living on Aruba. Obligatory education begins on the very first day of school in an academic year for children who are at least 4 years of age on October 1st. A child who becomes 4 years of age after the first day of school, but not later than October 1st is also obliged to go to school.

Obligatory education is applicable until the child reaches 17 years of age or until the student has completed a secondary or professional education.

Can I keep my child home from school for a day?

A child must attend school every day. Parents or guardians

are responsible to ensure that the child goes to school. However, in certain circumstances a child may have to stay home from school. For example, when the child is ill, or for some extraordinary personal reason, or due to a family matter (death/funeral, accident).

Where should I report the child's absence?

For permissible absences, the parent or guardian of the child must report the child's absence from school before 9:00am to the Headmaster of the school. The Headmaster will pass on information about the child's absences (when this is frequent) to the Bureau Leerplicht Aruba, the local compulsory education office.

Employees of the Bureau will do a control on the child's absences to ascertain whether they are permissible. More information regarding permissible absences is available at the school.

Continued on page 5



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ATA receives Orange Ribbon from Governor Refunjol



ORANJESTAD -- Yesterday morning Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) CEO, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes received the "Oranje Strik" for ATA's "One Happy Thank You" project. Different persons have already been recorded giving their message. Some 200 persons were recorded during the recent Aruba Day celebrations in Holland. In the upcoming days more of these recordings will be made. This will be used to demonstrate Aruba's sentiments in connection with the events of April 30 for the Royal family. This production will be used via the social media / for PR and other promotional reasons. Mrs. Tjin Asjoe-Croes indicated

that she is very honored and pleased that the first 'Oranje Strik' was presented to Aruba. She expressed gratitude on behalf of the ATA team. This production will soon be available online for everyone to enjoy.

The so-called National Inaugural Committee received five ribbons for each island in the Dutch Caribbean honoring 5 creative initiatives which excelled in the context of the abdication of Queen Beatrix and the ascension to the throne of the new King of the Dutch Kingdom.

ATA, together with their PR agent in Holland, Linden & Barbosa, created a concept to commemorate the occasion, and also to cast Aruba in the limelight in a unique and creative fashion. The 'One Happy Thank You' project is a video message containing 500 messages from different persons in our community, who want to thank and send goodwill wishes to the Queen as she abdicates and to the King as he assumes his new role as King.

ATA also registered the idea to be considered for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest video message of the world. This will most certainly give Aruba an even wider promotional coverage

Government promotes regular medical control and proper care to control hypertension



Every year the World Health Organization (WHO) commemorates the anniversary of their founding with World Health Day on the 7th of April. This is usually done with an emphasis on a prominent theme which has the attention and preoccupation of the world. This year they chose the theme 'Hypertension,' ...high blood pressure, which is a problem that Aruba is currently battling.

The number of patients on Aruba suffering from hypertension is alarming. The government of Aruba continues to express their concern for this problem and for its dire negative consequences. The consequences range from a potential heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, vision problems, blood circulation problems and arterial difficulties, as well as brain degeneration. According to WHO more than one in every three adults is affected by high blood pressure and more than nine million people die every year from the consequences of high blood pressure.

Only a few weeks ago, an interesting seminar on Nephrology was held here. This seminar revealed that the situation here is simply alarming with three new cases of dialysis registered here every month.

According to the Minister of Health, regular medical control, healthy lifestyle, proper care, good nutrition and physical activity are essential for avoiding many different diseases.

It is essential that every-



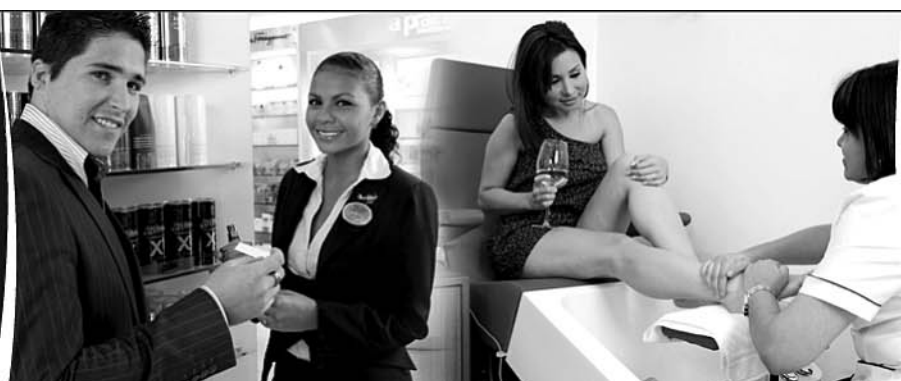
one visit their healthcare practitioner for regular checkups, take any necessary medication faithfully, and do physical exercise, eat well and monitor their own health.

For those suffering from hypertension, it is advisable to refrain from the use of salt in their foods.



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Another busy hurricane season expected

Top forecasters predict an above-average 2013 Atlantic hurricane season, with 18 tropical storms forecast, of which nine will be hurricanes.

A typical year, based on weather records that go back to 1950, has 12 tropical storms, of which seven are hurricanes. A tropical storm has sustained winds of 39 mph; it becomes a hurricane when its winds reach 74 mph.

The forecast was released yesterday morning by meteorologists Philip Klotzbach and William Gray at Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project. The Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1 and lasts until Nov. 30.

Gray's team was the first organization to issue seasonal hurricane forecasts back in 1984; this is the team's 30th seasonal hurricane forecast.

This forecast is for the Atlantic basin, which includes the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. Klotzbach said that of the nine predicted hurricanes, four should be major hurricanes — categories 3, 4 or 5 — with sustained wind speeds of 111 mph or greater.

"The tropical Atlantic has anomalously warmed over the past several months, and it appears that the chances of an El Niño event this summer and fall are unlikely," said Klotzbach. "Typically, El Niño is associated with stronger vertical shear across the tropical Atlantic, creating conditions less conducive for storm formation."

2013 Hurricane names:

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Government provides financial protection to minimum wagers

ORANJESTAD -- Within the context of the changes in the labor Laws, the government has elaborated on the introduction of the minimum wage Law. The primary change is the application of the rules for the protection of the employee. So that the employee can have a take home salary of at least the minimum wage which will give him financial security he can live on. The change of the Minimum Wage Law will entail that as of now the salary derived from tips, nor wages in kind, may be counted towards or to add up to the minimum wage. All of these components must be considered additional to the minimum wage and be paid out as such.

The change in the law encompasses three very important aspects for the laborer, which is the definition with respect to normal working hours, all compensations for food and tips may not be counted as part of the minimum wage. Nor can salary in kind be part of the minimum wage.

For the application of the rules for minimum wages

there is a new definition for the duration of normal work. The duration of normal work is what has been accorded in the labor contract in the employment rules of a collective working agreement (CAO).

In the event the situation is different than the aforementioned, then the duration of the job is for at least 40 hours per week (article 2, paragraph 1, law on minimum wage), which took effect on April 1st, 2013.

To avoid all misinterpretation on this matter, the government has stipulated that the minimum wage for someone working less than 40 hours per week will be reduced proportionally. If he works 32 hours per week, the employee will receive 80% of the minimum wage, and if he works 36 hours per week, the take home pay will be 90% of the minimum wage. Tips and compensation for meals can no longer be counted as part of the minimum wage.

The employer is now obliged to pay out the full minimum wage excluding any tips that the employee may have received. Those tips

must be paid out as additional to the salary and no longer as part of it.

All income in kind, such as meals, a place to live, or any other component considered non-monetary, may not be discounted from the salary (art. 7, par. 3 of the Minimum Wage Law).

The government is of the opinion that the employer must pay the employee 100%

in money for services rendered. All other components must be paid in addition to the minimum wage. In today's modern world, every employee deserves, after a hard day's work, his complete salary, as well as all compensations received from third parties (tips) so he can remain motivated to continue and be able to acquire those things he needs.

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US senators reach deal on gun-sale..

Continued from page 1

Specifically, it would not affect person-to-person sales, such as those between relatives, with Manchin assuring that "personal transfers are not touched whatsoever."

But the legislation would strengthen existing law, which currently only requires background checks when guns are purchased from a licensed dealer.

And Toomey sought to ease existing worries that the background checks could lead to a national registry of gun owners, saying the proposed legislation "does not require record-keeping by any private citizens."

The Senate Democratic leadership has already introduced a three-part bill that would require expanding background checks to virtually all gun sales, make gun-trafficking a felony, and boost funding for school safety.

Majority Leader Harry Reid has scheduled a showdown vote on those measures for today.

He has also said he would allow lawmakers from both parties to introduce amendments to the overarching legislation, and the Manchin-Toomey compromise would likely be introduced as such an amendment.

Obama offers new plan for US to back IMF reform

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama proposed yesterday a budget-neutral increase in US funding to the International Monetary Fund that could end the impasse over IMF reform agreed three years ago.

In its 2014 fiscal year budget proposal to Congress, the Obama administration said the cost of the increase in the US IMF quota would be offset by a reduction in the US contribution to IMF credit lines.

The 2010 IMF reform, aimed at both increasing the Fund's lending resources and giving rising economic powers like China a greater role, required the US to put another \$63 billion into the institution.

As the IMF's largest quota holder -- essentially largest shareholder -- the reform needs US participation to be finalized.

Aruba now has Obligatory Education: . . .

Continued from page 2

**Need more information?
Visit www.ea.aw/leerplicht**

On the above website there is detailed information regarding the Obligatory Education. There is information concerning absenteeism for vacations, travelling abroad with a school age child, what is permissible and what is not, petitions for dispensation for extraordinary circumstances, and the particular procedure to follow.

There are also answers to the many questions frequently raised, such as: who falls under the Obligatory



Education law? When is dispensation possible? What to

do if you want to offer home schooling? Who controls the Obligatory Education? When does the school contact employees of the Obligatory Education Bureau?

You are cordially invited to visit the website, www.ea.aw/leerplicht, for more information or for the necessary forms.

You may also follow them on Facebook at: [facebook.com/education-aruba](https://www.facebook.com/education-aruba).

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US: North Korea skating 'close to dangerous line'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - North Korea is "skating very close to a dangerous line" with its heated rhetoric and provocative actions, US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told reporters yesterday.

The United States and its allies hoped Pyongyang would tone down its inflammatory language but the American military was prepared for any possibility, Hagel said.

"North Korea ...with its bellicose rhetoric, its actions, has been skating very close to a dangerous line," the Pentagon chief said.

"Our country is fully prepared to deal with any contingency, any action that North Korea may take or any provocation that they may instigate," Hagel added.

The US military's top officer, General Martin Dempsey, told the same press conference that he could not publicly com-

ment on intelligence estimates as to how close North Korea was to placing a nuclear warhead on a missile.

But the four-star general said the United States military was ready for the "worst case" scenario.

"They have conducted two nuclear tests. They have conducted several successful missile launches.

"And in the absence of concrete evidence to the contrary, we have to assume the worst case and that's why we're postured as we are today," said Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The military has deployed US naval ships in the region capable of shooting down incoming missiles and staged a show of force with bomber aircraft in a bid to deter North Korea from launching any attack.

Hagel said the United

States and its allies hoped "that that rhetoric be ratcheted down" and Pyongyang will seek to defuse a "combustible situation."

The comments come amid widespread speculation North Korea is poised for a missile launch in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

The head of US Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel Locklear, told senators Tuesday that he favored shooting down a North Korean missile only if it threatened the United States or Washington's allies in the region.

Locklear, however, said he was confident the US military would be able to detect quickly where any missile was headed.

That would cover any target in South Korea and Japan, and possibly even US military bases on the Pacific island of Guam.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama debuts budget, joining new fiscal showdown

WASHINGTON (AFP) - To Republican mockery, President Barack Obama rolled out a \$3.77 trillion budget yesterday that laid out his battle lines in a new fiscal showdown in Washington but irked some liberal allies.

Obama said his blueprint for fiscal year 2014 would shield the middle class by closing tax loopholes that help the rich, would grow the economy, cut the deficit, train future American workers and protect seniors.

"For years, the debate in this town has raged between reducing our deficits at all costs and making the investments necessary to grow our economy," Obama said on an unseasonably warm morning in the White House Rose Garden.

"This budget answers that argument, because we can do both. We can grow our economy, and shrink our deficits."

Republicans however immediately rejected Obama's plans. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell branded them as a "left wing wish list."

House Speaker John Boehner, who has already passed a Republican budget that slashes spending, warned that Obama had already made life tough enough on the rich, adding: "we don't need to be raising taxes on the American people."

Obama's spending plan for 2014 is in many ways an academic exercise, given that it has no chance of being fully enacted in stalemated Wash-

ington.

But it will stand as his entry in the latest fast-building showdown pitching the president's plan to hike taxes on the most well off against Republican plans to slash government spending with no new revenues.

"We don't view this budget as a starting point. This is an offer where the president came more than half way towards the Republicans in an attempt to get a fiscal deal," said a senior White House official.

"Are Republicans going to be willing to come to us?" the official asked, ahead of the unveiling of the budget at a time hope has faded for a "grand bargain" deal on the deficit between Obama and Republicans.

The blueprint included one key concession to Republicans, which has already angered elements of Obama's liberal Democratic base.

Obama signaled he is ready to modify some cherished entitlement social programs, by adjusting cost of living adjustments that could trim benefits for some senior citizens.

The move was intended to try to lure some support for cross party budget and deficit talks.

The White House is billing the budget as a document which proves that the need to cut voluminous deficits does not need to be achieved by savage cuts in government spending and social programs envisaged by Republicans.



ZARQA -- A general view of the new Mrigeb al-Fuhud refugee camp, 20 kilometres east of the city of the Jordanian city of Zarqa, is seen as Jordan opened a second camp for Syrian refugees after the United Nations said the number seeking shelter in the kingdom is expected to triple by the end of the year. The seven-million-dinar (\$9.8-million) camp, which was paid for by the United Arab Emirates, has 750 caravans, a hospital and a school and can take up to 5,500 people. (AFP PHOTO)

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International News

Cruise giant fined 1m euros for crash

ROME (AFP) - Italy's Costa Crociere, the biggest cruise operator in Europe, on Wednesday accepted limited responsibility for the Costa Concordia disaster as the employer of some of those under investigation over a shipwreck tragedy in which 32 people died.

A court ruled the company will have to pay a fine of 1.0 million euros (\$1.3 million) and will no longer be investigated for alleged responsibility in the disaster. Costa will instead aim to take part in the expected trial as an injured party.

"It is a balanced solution," the company's lawyer, Marco De Luca, told reporters in Grosseto in Tuscany where the court hearing was held and where preliminary hearings will begin on Monday to decide whether the accused should face trial.

Prosecutors have levied charges against six people including captain Francesco Schettino and the head of Costa Crociere's crisis unit Roberto Ferrarini for the January 2012 incident. The charges have to be confirmed before any trial can go ahead.

The giant luxury liner crashed into the Italian island of Giglio with 4,229 people on board just as many passengers were dining on the first night

of their Mediterranean cruise, prompting a panicked and chaotic night-time evacuation.

Dozens of passengers are suing the company for damages, although most of those who were not injured or did not lose loved ones have accepted 11,000 euros in compensation from Costa, which belongs to US giant Carnival.

Wednesday's ruling bears only on the criminal investigation and not on civil proceedings.

'Dead' Qaeda leader Shehri delivers audio message: SITE

DUBAI (AFP) - Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has posted online an audio message from its second-in-command, Saeed al-Shehri, whose death was announced by Yemen in January, a monitoring group reported Wednesday.

The 14-minute audio produced by AQAP's media arm Al-Malahem Foundation is accompanied by what the US-based SITE Monitoring Service said was a new photograph of the Saudi militant.

Shehri's death has been announced several times by the Yemeni authorities, most recently on January 24. The claim was neither confirmed nor denied by AQAP.

It was unclear when the latest audio message, posted on jihadist forums on Tuesday, had been recorded, but in it Shehri speaks of events that took place after the announcement of his death.

He denounces an anti-terrorism conference held in Riyadh in February as well as a meeting mid-March of Arab interior ministers, also in Saudi Arabia.

Netherlands says 50,000 tonnes of beef may contain horse

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands' food watchdog on Wednesday asked hundreds of companies across Europe, supplied by a Dutch wholesaler suspected of mixing beef and horsemeat, to check 50,000 tonnes of suspect meat.

The latest saga comes after a vast food scandal that erupted across Europe after horsemeat was found in supposedly pure beef ready-made meals and burgers in Britain and Ireland.

The organisation sent a letter to 130 Dutch companies who were supplied with possi-

ble horse-contaminated beef from the Selten company asking them to "take it off the market as a precautionary measure" and "verify all products".

Around 370 companies across Europe could also be affected, the organisation said.

NVWA spokeswoman Esther Filon told AFP that the meat was supplied between January 2011 and February 2013 across Europe.

Dutch public television NOS reported that the suspect meat could be on supermarket shelves, notably in frozen food.

Because the meat was supplied in 2011, much of it has been eaten already, the NOS reported.

The NVWA has notified authorities in France, Germany and Spain through Europe's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed to inform around 370 buyers supplied by Selten of its decision.

The companies have two weeks to report back to the NVWA, who has also informed health authorities in France, Germany and Spain.

Dutch officials in February raided the Selten meat processing plant in the south of the Netherlands on suspicion that it was mixing horsemeat with beef and selling it as pure beef.

Since the problem was first discovered in Ireland in January, governments have scrambled to figure out how and

where the mislabelling of meat happened in the sprawling chain of production spanning abattoirs and meat suppliers across Europe.

The scandal has drawn in numerous large food companies including Swiss food giant Nestle and Swedish furniture giant Ikea, which last week stopped selling frozen elk lasagne after a batch was found to contain traces of pork.

Ikea began reintroducing meatballs in its restaurants worldwide last month after horsemeat was found in the product in February.

Dutch politicians reacted with shock to the NVWA's announcement Wednesday, with the Animal Party (PvdD) leader saying she would ask for a parliamentary debate on Thursday.

Dutch Consumer Union spokesman Babs van der Staac told AFP: "This shows that extra measures have to be taken, notably with better checks and better communication for consumers to know which products and supermarkets are concerned."

Selten consists of two companies: Wiljo Import and Export and Meat Wholesaler Willy Selten.

The plant was probed as part of a criminal investigation by the prosecutor's office and the NVWA.

It is suspected of fraud and money laundering, the prosecutor's office said at the time.



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Indian court rules against surgery on conjoined twins



NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled out any immediate surgery to separate 17-year-old twin sisters joined at the head, citing the need for more expert medical opinion.

A division bench of the court said they had taken note of the fact the twins shared a vital blood vessel in the brain and that only one of them had kidneys.

"No positive direction can be given in the absence of an expert medical opinion indicating either of them can be saved due

to a surgical operation," the bench said.

The court, however, ordered the government of the eastern state of Bihar to pay 5,000 rupees (\$92) a month to the parents to meet the twins' medical expenses.

The twins welcomed the court's ruling.

"The court's verdict will provide us time to live together -- like we have since birth," Saba told AFP in Patna.

Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan and Dipak Mishra revealed in their ruling that they had spent "sleepless nights" in seeking to arrive at a solution for the twin sisters.

"Seldom does society care or know the mental and psychological trauma... (that) judges undergo, especially when they are called upon to decide an issue touching human life, ei-

ther to save or take away," the order read.

Saba and Farah Saleem, who are mostly bed-ridden, hail from a poor family in Bihar with their father running a small roadside eatery in the capital city of Patna.

Their condition has drawn the attention of global medical specialists, with US neurosurgeon Benjamin Carson travelling to Bihar to study their case in 2011.

Carson had warned that surgery to separate the twins could be risky, following which the parents decided against any operation. Local media reports said they had even rejected a reported offer from the crown prince of Abu Dhabi to pay for surgery.

The ruling was the outcome of a public interest suit filed by a law student seeking financial support for the maintenance of the twins and to provide them proper medical care.

Health & Living

Dengue fever outbreak hits Costa Rica

SAN JOSE (AFP) - Health officials in Costa Rica said an outbreak of dengue fever has sickened 7,000 people, with many cases occurring in some of this Central American country's most popular tourist areas.

The incidence of illness represents a three-fold increase over this time a year ago, according to Maria Villalta, medical director of national Social Security office, which has been tracking the outbreak.

Most of the cases have been reported along Costa Rica's Pacific Coast, an area popular with foreign tourists. Officials said about 2,500 cases of dengue have been reported there -- eight times more than last year.

Health authorities said they have been baffled by this re-

cent outbreak, which has occurred despite a spate of unusually dry weather. The mosquitoes which carry dengue usually proliferate in times of heavy rain.

Dengue affects between 50 and 100 million people in the tropics and subtropics each year, resulting in fever, muscle and joint ache.

The disease is caused by four strains of virus that are spread by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. There is no vaccine, so medical authorities in the region have been trying to stamp it out by focusing on mosquito control.

The illness can be fatal, developing into hemorrhagic fever which can lead to shock and internal bleeding.

Most conflict-zone sex crimes are against children: charity



LONDON (AFP) - Save the Children on Wednesday urged action after releasing a report claiming that most rape and sexual abuse victims in many of the world's conflict zones were children.

The report, entitled "Crimes Against Children", cited data and testimonies from countries including Colombia, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The charity warned that programmes to help children who are victims of sexual crimes in war zones and post-conflict regions were massively underfunded.

"It is shocking that in conflict zones around the world children are being raped and abused at such an appalling rate," said Save the Children's Chief Executive Justin Forsyth.

"Sexual violence is one of the hidden horrors of war and the damage it wreaks ruins

lives.

"Even if they recover from the physical effects of their experiences, many victims carry the psychological scars of their ordeal for the rest of their lives, and are often cast out from society. Despite all this, there are huge gaps in funding for the work needed to protect children from these atrocious crimes and to respond to their needs," he added.

The issue will be on the agenda of the meeting of G8 foreign ministers this week.

The report highlighted a study in post-civil war Liberia which found that 83 percent of victims of gender-related violence in 2011-12 were under the age of 17.

Another investigation in post-conflict Sierra Leone found that more than 70 percent of sexual violence cases were committed against girls under 18.

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Sci-Tech

Test-tube baby pioneer Robert Edwards dies aged 87-

LONDON (AFP) - British scientist Robert Edwards, who was awarded a Nobel prize for his pioneering work in developing in vitro fertilisation (IVF), died on Wednesday aged 87, his university announced.

Edwards spent his career making the dream of having a baby come true for millions of people worldwide, running into conflict with the Catholic Church and fellow scientists on his way.

He was awarded the Nobel prize for medicine in 2010, three decades after the birth of the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, in 1978, and five decades after he first began experimenting.

"It is with deep sadness that the family announces that Professor Sir Robert Edwards, Nobel prizewinner, scientist and co-pioneer of IVF, passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 10, 2013 after a long illness," the University of Cambridge said in a statement.

Edwards was too frail to pick up his Nobel prize in Stockholm in 2010, leaving that to his wife Ruth, with whom he had five daughters.

However, he remained a fellow of Churchill College at Cambridge until his death.

His work was motivated by his belief, as he once described it, that "the most important thing in life is having a child. Nothing is more special than a child".

Born in Yorkshire in northern England on September 27, 1925, into a working-class family, Edwards served in the British army during World War II before returning home to study first agricultural sciences and then animal genetics.

Building on earlier research which showed that egg cells from rabbits could be fertilised in test tubes when sperm was added, Edwards developed the same technique for humans.

In a laboratory in Cambridge, eastern England, in 1968, he first saw life created outside the womb in the form of a human blastocyst, an embryo that has developed for five to six days after fertilisation.

Such was the controversy surrounding the birth of Louise Brown that her mother had to give birth in secret to avoid the media

Chile halts construction of huge gold mine

SANTIAGO (AFP) - A Chilean court said on Wednesday it has suspended construction of what would be one of the world's biggest gold mines, accepting a complaint filed by indigenous groups on environmental grounds.

The complaint against the project launched in 2009 by Canadian mining company Barrick Gold, the world's largest gold producer, cited concerns over possible damage to a river, according to the ruling by the Santiago Appeals Court, which was seen by AFP and issued Tuesday night.

The unfinished Pascua Lama gold mine straddles the Chilean-Argentine border. The project has seen stiff resistance from environmental groups and local communities.

Barrick had expected production to begin in the first six months of 2014.

The order suspends construction of the open-pit mine while the court studies the broader environmental issues.

The complaint was filed by the Diaguita Indians, a small community based in northern Chile.

It said that the construction work "has generated a situation of imminent environmental danger" for the Estrecho River.

Green Innovation



GENEVA (AFP) - : France inventor Thierry Bonneau presents on April 10, 2013 his creation -- a drying and disinfecting holder for a helmet or hat -- during the opening day of the 41th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva. More than 725 exhibitors from 45 countries are presenting until April 14 more than 1,000 inventions at one of the world's largest exhibition devoted to innovation in Geneva.

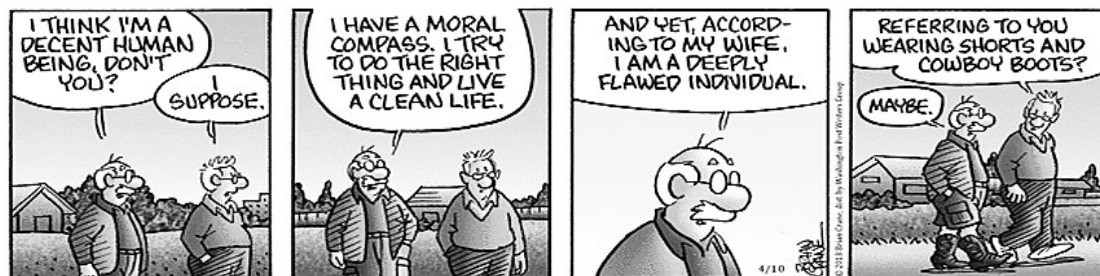
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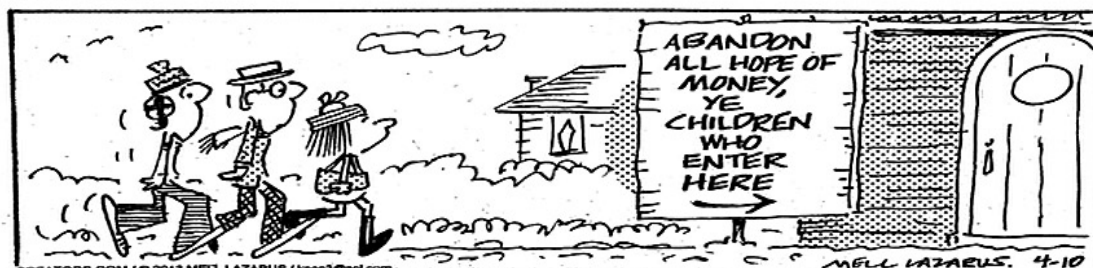
COMICS



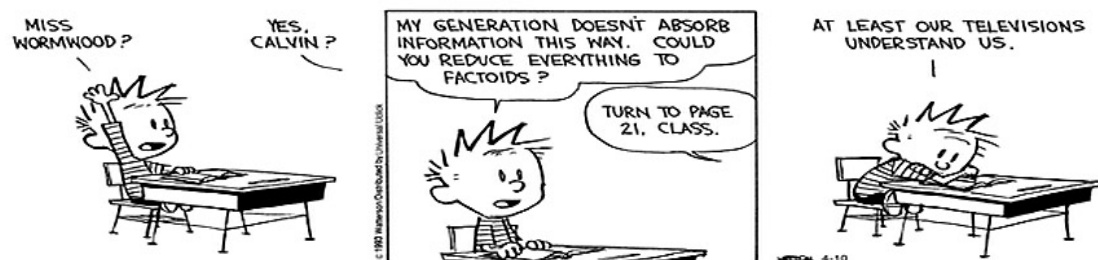
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Electric fish
4. April 15th fig.
7. Cable option (abbr.)
10. "Do ___ say!" (2 wds.)
11. Poison ivy reaction
13. 7-day period
14. Reply
16. ___ rug
17. Tilts
18. Honey factory
20. Golfers'

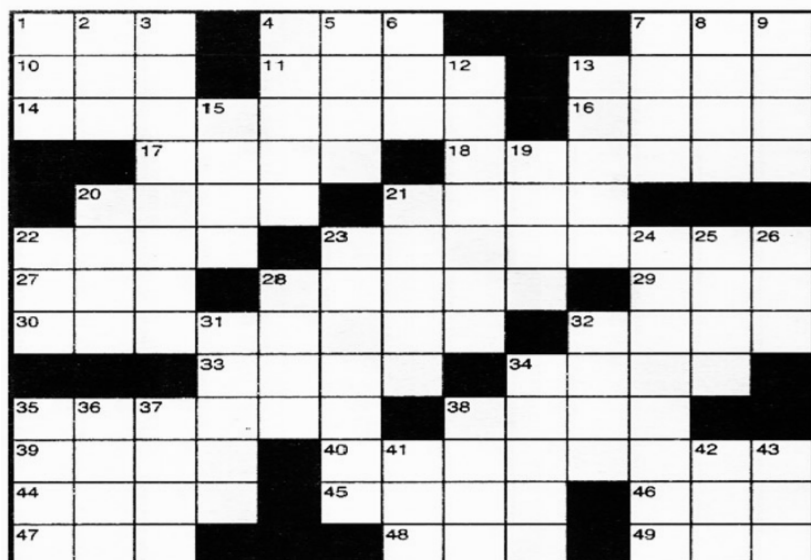
21. Rental car company
22. Billfold items
23. Sparkles
27. Great anger
28. Calendar items
29. Singer "King" Cole
30. Round
32. Prepares hides
33. TV producer Norman
34. Start of a tot's song
35. Complete
38. Fog
39. "Forever and Ever, ___" (Randy Travis)

40. Mildly sharp flavoring
44. Exhaust
45. Pickling spice
46. Darkroom item (abbr.)
47. Bring to a close
48. Dunce's grade
49. Glop

DOWN

1. Lobe locale
2. Compass letters
3. Auditor
4. Farm yields
5. Kitchen needs
6. Hee-hawer on the farm
7. Greek

8. Foamy brew
9. "Fine with me!"
12. Weighing more
13. Corset cincher
15. Dessert selections
19. Cavities
20. Garr of "Tootsie"
21. Worship spot
22. ___-tac-toe
23. Noblest knight
24. Passing legislation
25. ___ McNally
26. Main and Sesame (abbr.)
28. Membership costs
31. Patsy of country music
32. Spice amt.
34. Wedding day pathway
35. Inevitable outcome
36. "Heaven, ___ heaven..." (2 wds.)
37. Adolescent outcast
38. Parisian female (abbr.)
41. Farberware cover
42. Company's head (abbr.)
43. Self-esteem



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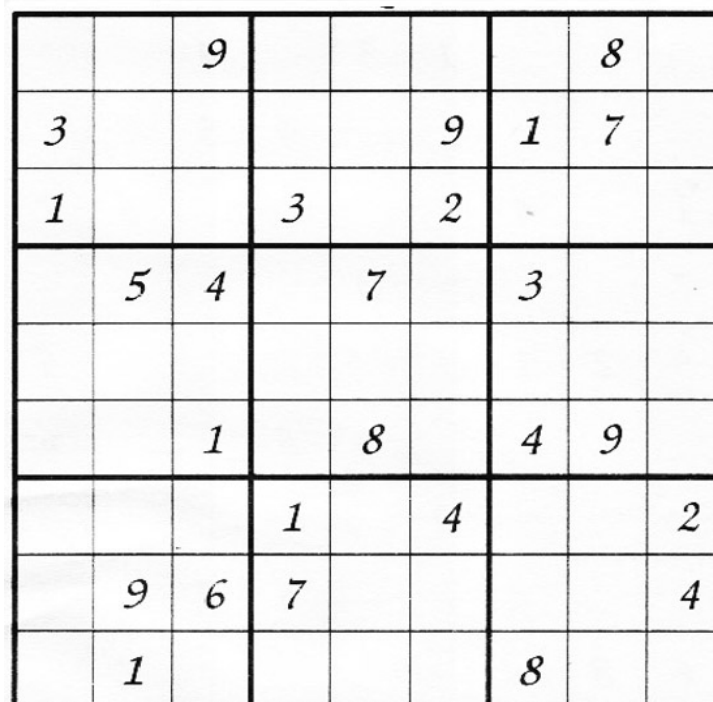
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	9	8	5	6	7	2	1	3
3	1	5	8	2	9	6	7	4
2	5	6	7	9	1	5	4	8
9	6	7	2	8	5	1	3	4
1	5	2	9	7	4	8	6	3
8	2	1	4	6	7	5	9	3
6	7	9	2	5	1	8	3	4
5	4	1	6	7	8	2	9	3
3	8	2	4	1	9	6	7	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 04/10/2013	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.77
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	192.67
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	235.41
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.50
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	31.81
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	31.61
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	181.96
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.				

Qatar to buy Egypt bonds worth \$3 billion: Qatari PM

DOHA (AFP) - Energy-rich Qatar has agreed to buy bonds from cash-strapped Egypt worth \$3 billion over and above a previously announced aid package, its Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jasssem Al-Thani said Wednesday.

The announcement comes as Cairo holds difficult talks with the International Monetary Fund over a loan of \$4.8 billion as part of a financing programme to lift Egypt's economy out of crisis.

Qatar has already announced an aid package of \$5 billion to Egypt, comprising an outright grant of \$1 billion and \$4 billion in bank deposits.

A delegation of the IMF is visiting Cairo for talks on the financing programme and is expected to examine Egypt's efforts at economic reform.

The government has been walking a tightrope as the reforms required by the interna-

tional lender are likely to spark social tensions.

The size of the loan may change, IMF officials have said, without elaborating.

Egypt's authorities believe the loan will help restore investor confidence in the country, where unrest that accompanied the 2011 uprising that toppled former president Hosni Mubarak has caused a significant drop in revenue from the once-lucrative tourism industry.

Foreign reserves have plunged from \$36 billion to some \$13 billion in two years, and the budget deficit is increasing.

President Mohamed Morsi's administration has been plagued by unrest and deadly clashes between protesters and police, blocking efforts to build broad-based support for a needed programme of economic reform.

Kuwait grants Bahrain \$1.3 billion to finance projects

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - Kuwait said on Wednesday it will finance projects worth \$1.3 billion (992 million euros) in its Gulf partner Bahrain as part of pledges made two years ago, an official statement said.

The funds will be used to finance part of four development projects over the next few years, including power transmission networks, housing projects and a key road, the state-owned Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development said.

KFAED officials signed the agreements with visiting Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa.

Bahrain and Kuwait are members of the energy-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) along with Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

At a meeting in Riyadh in March 2011, the six GCC states decided to establish a \$20-billion fund to finance development projects in Bahrain and Oman, which have limited energy resources.

The measure was taken in the wake of protests that swept several countries as part of the Arab Spring, which also hit Bahrain and to a lesser extent Oman.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and UAE each pledged \$5 billion, and the grants are to be spent over a 10-year period.

Finance

New York governor plans corruption crackdown

(AFP) - The governor of New York on Tuesday proposed new legal powers to tackle corrupt politicians, following the announcement last week of bribery charges against lawmakers in the US state.

Governor Andrew Cuomo said the crackdown would raise public corruption crimes above regular white collar crimes.

It comes the week after state lawmakers were ensnared in two separate federal probes, including a state senator accused of trying to bribe his way onto the Republican ballot for New York City's upcoming mayoral vote.

Cuomo's proposed new laws would expand definitions of public corruption, toughen jail sentences for people misusing public funds.

They would also bar anyone convicted of such crimes from holding elected or civil office or receiving state funding or contracts of any kind.

The new class of crimes would include bribing a public servant, corrupting the government and failing to report a bribe.

"Preventing public corruption is essential to ensuring that government works and can effectively keep the public's trust," Cuomo said.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance supported a toughening of the rules.

"Just as the public needs confidence in the fairness of our criminal justice system, we also need to have faith that the men and women entrusted to do the public's work are doing so honestly."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	T	A	B	L	E	N	O	R
H	E	N	T	E	A	S	E	O
O	L	D	H	E	X	E	S	P
O	L	I	V	E	R	S	P	E
B	A	T	E	S	G	A	S	P
U	F	O	S	O	L	R	O	O
S	T	E	E	P	E	D	C	R
N	E	T	C	O	O			
L	A	R	G	E	A	V	E	R
A	P	O	L	O	R	R	E	O
L	E	A	S	W	E	A	R	T
A	R	M	N	O	T	S	H	A



Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m

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France breaks taboo by forcing ministers to declare assets

PARIS (AFP) - French ministers lining up to publicly declare their personal assets are sparking a revolution in political thinking in France, where experts say it is often easier to talk about sex than money.

Under new measures aimed at restoring public confidence in politicians after a major tax fraud scandal, ministers in President Francois Hollande's government have until Monday to lay out their wealth for all to see.

The government announced the requirement this week in a bid to limit political damage from the scandal surrounding former budget minister Jerome Cahuzac, who is facing tax fraud charges for having an undeclared foreign bank account containing some 600,000 euros (\$770,000).

Some have already come forward, including Health Minister Marisol Touraine who declared a personal wealth of 1.4 million euros (\$1.8 million) based on several properties in Paris.

French lawmakers have been required since 1988 to submit financial transparency declarations within two months of being elected, but

many ignored the requirement and penalties for failing to do so were never applied.

The new measures are part of a package of reforms, including a new financial transparency law expected to be approved by the summer, that the government has promised in the wake of the Cahuzac scandal.

Politicians on both the left and right have criticised the measures, with the head of the main opposition right-wing UMP, Jean-Francois Cope, saying they amount to "voyeurism".

Mossuz-Lavau said that during a 2007 study she conducted on the French and their personal finances, interview subjects "found it much more difficult to talk about money than about sex."

She said three factors were at play.

"The French are almost all from a peasant background where money should remain hidden to not arouse jealousy or greed; this is a country with a culture of Catholicism, which is turned toward the poor; and finally the left has retained the Marxist idea that 'greed is bad'," Mossuz-Lavau said.



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - : Visitors watch by a showbox with an assortment of assault rifles made by Pakistan Ordnance Factories during the first day of the LADD defence and security fair, the biggest in Latin America, with the participation of exhibitors from around the world, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on April 9, 2013.

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Obama soaks up soul at White House shindig



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama paid homage on Tuesday to Memphis soul and the role the music style played in advancing civil rights at a star-studded White House concert celebrating the genre.

"In the sixties and seventies, Memphis knew its share of division and discord and injustice," Obama recalled. It was in the Tennessee city in 1968 that civil rights hero Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

But soul music "tried to bridge those divides -- to create a little harmony with harmony," said the president, who walked on stage to the dulcet strains not of traditional presi-

dential anthem "Hail to the Chief" but of "Green Onions," a well-known instrumental tune by Booker T. and the MG's.

The group, whose leader, Booker T. Jones, 68, directed the concert, was integrated, a rare feat in a city still marked by segregation, recalled Obama, himself the United States' first African-American president.

In early 1960s, the musicians "weren't allowed to go to school together. They weren't always allowed to travel or eat together," the president said.

"But no one could stop them from playing music together."

He made the audience

laugh as he joked that he was speaking "not just as a President, but as one of America's best-known Al Green impersonators," referring to the famous soul singer.

Obama, during his 2012 re-election campaign, delighted a crowd when he sang on stage in New York several seconds of Green's "Let's stay together."

During a blues concert at the White House a month earlier, he was also convinced to take up the chorus of "Sweet Home Chicago."

Obama refrained from singing on Tuesday.

Among the stars who appeared during the concert were soul legend Sam Moore, from the famous Sam and Dave duo, singing their 1967 hit "Soul Man," alongside contemporary pop star Justin Timberlake, who sang Otis Redding's classic "Sitting on the dock of the bay."

Queen Latifah, Ben Harper and Cindy Lauper were on hand at the concert, which should air on April 16 on PBS television.

US punk rocker Patti Smith meets Pope Francis



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - US punk rocker Patti Smith shook hands with Pope Francis at a general audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday, saying afterwards she found the new pontiff "very interesting" and "liked him a lot". Wearing a black beanie hat and an oversize brown coat, Smith and the pope appeared to exchange a few words in the square and the pope was seen laughing. Smith, who is not a Catholic but followed the conclave in the news, said the pope had shown courage in naming himself after St Francis of Assisi. The singer, who is in Rome for a series of concerts, said the saint represented humility, the renunciation of materialism and a love of nature. Smith became a leading member of the New York punk rock movement following the release of her debut album "Horses" in 1975. She is well known also for her social activism, as well as her work in the visual arts and poetry. In an interview last year, pop star Madonna referred to her as a major inspiration. The 66-year-old comes from a religious family but is not a church-goer. In one of her hits she sang: "Jesus died for somebody's sins, but not mine".

Lets Drive Safely

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom,

Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"—"Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena—"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted

Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

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The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm,

Tel: 5860606 and email:saus.arubancuisine@live.com, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 years budget-minded service!



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The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and

retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you



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TE: 586 4046**Sport****Football: Barcelona survive scare to reach semi-finals**

BARCELONA (AFP) - Barcelona survived a huge scare from Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday to qualify for the Champions League semi-finals for the sixth successive season on away goals after a 1-1 draw at the Camp Nou.

The 2-2 draw between the pair in last week's quarter-final first leg had handed the advantage to the Catalans, but with star player Lionel Messi only starting the return as a substitute due to a hamstring injury, they seemed nervous throughout and PSG deservedly went in front just after half-time through Javier Pastore.

However, with Messi summoned from the bench, Pedro fired home 19 minutes from time to send Barca into the last four.

And the winger was even more relieved to have scored the equaliser having given the ball away in the lead up to the PSG goal.

However, Pedro admitted that it was Messi's introduction that turned the game around in the final half hour.

Even without Messi, Barca came within inches of the per-

fect start when Xavi curled a free-kick inches past Salvatore Sirigu's right-hand post.

Thereafter though the first-period belonged to the visitors who capitalised on Barca's uncharacteristic slackness in possession to take a stranglehold of the game, thanks in particular to the pace and drive of Lucas Moura.

The Brazilian saw a fierce strike from outside the area well handled by Victor Valdes, before he and Ezequiel Lavezzi both wastefully shot over when well-positioned.

Lavezzi then had the biggest chance of the first-half as he latched onto Zlatan Ibrahimovic's through ball, but his prodded effort lacked the power to beat Valdes who comfortably blocked with his feet.

Ibrahimovic was the provider again as Lucas saw a headed effort at the back post turned over by Valdes as the pressure from the French league leaders continued.

The goal that PSG had been threatening all night finally did arrive five minutes after the break as an excellent one-two between Pastore and Ibrahi-

12 yards.

Dani Alves then had Barca's best chance up to that point of the evening as he blasted over when unmarked at the back post before Messi replaced Cesc Fabregas to a huge ovation.

Messi's arrival instantly forced Barca onto the front foot and, after Gerard Pique had a shot blocked, Iniesta forced Sirigu into his first serious save with Messi unable to control the rebound.

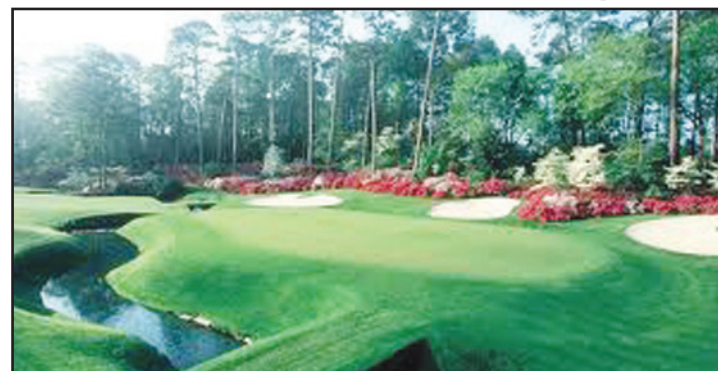
Pastore dragged another shot wide at the other end as PSG maintained a threat on the break, but the Parisians were made to rue their wastefulness in front of goal as Barca equalised on 71 minutes.

Inevitably, Messi was involved as he jinked past a couple of defenders and rolled the ball into David Villa who laid it back for Pedro to smash home.

And despite a nervy final 15 minutes for the hosts, PSG couldn't create another clear opening as Barca join Real Madrid, Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich in Friday's semi-final draw.

movie sent the Argentine in behind the Barca defence and this time there was nothing Valdes could do to keep out his left-footed finish.

Pastore missed a great chance to register his second of the evening eight minutes later from another lightning PSG break, but this time he scuffed wide from

Golf: Swirling winds of Amen Corner threaten even Tiger

AUGUSTA (AFP) - Successfully navigating the tricky three-hole stretch of Augusta National's back nine known as "Amen Corner" could be the difference between victory and defeat in this week's 77th Masters.

The testy par-4 11th, deceptive par-3 12th and tempting but dangerous par-5 13th holes lurk at the far corner of the famed 7,435-yard layout, lined by pine trees and guarded by swirling winds that seem to have a life of their own.

Woods, a 14-time major champion seeking his fifth Masters crown, is favored thanks to victories this year at Torrey Pines, Doral and Bay Hill where he showed the form that once dominated golf, notably with impressive putting.

World number one Woods has not won a major crown since the 2008 US Open and has not taken a Masters since 2005, but moving closer to the all-time record of 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus would end any doubt he is back in peak form.

But even he cannot afford to take Amen Corner for granted. The 505-yard 11th ranked second-hardest among last year's 18 holes, only the par-4 first proving tougher to the world-class field.

The 155-yard 12th, guarded by three bunkers and fronted by Rae's Creek, offers a deceptive tee shot and the long-held advice that the moment to fire a tee shot at the 12th is when the flags at the 12th green and the nearby 11th green are blowing in the same direction.

The 510-yard 13th, providing stunning beauty with about 1,600 azalea bushes, also offers the chance to go for the green in two, but that means risking a splashdown in Rae's Creek for the potential reward of a birdie or even eagle.

The potential for epic shot-making or total disaster keeps many players in the hunt with a chance who might lack such hope on other layouts, English world number three Justin Rose said.

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Tennis: Pakistan star player to fight Davis Cup case

LAHORE (AFP) - Pakistan tennis star Aisam-ul Haq Qureshi Wednesday said he would fight Pakistan's case after a referee's decision to award a Davis Cup tie to New Zealand because of an unplayable court surface at a neutral venue.

Qureshi, 33, the country's first player to reach a Grand Slam doubles final, was part of the squad that faced New Zealand in an Asia Oceania group II tie, which was shifted to Myanmar over security fears in Pakistan.

Pakistan were leading 1-0 on Friday and Qureshi was ahead in the second singles



match when Sri Lankan referee Ashita Ajigala stopped the match and awarded the tie to New Zealand, as the courts were Pakistan's responsibility.

The Pakistan Tennis Federation had already announced it was lodging a protest with the International Tennis Federation (ITF), but Qureshi said he would meet Davis Cup officials in London to present the team's case.

"I am leaving for London and will meet Davis Cup officials on Friday to put Pak-

istan's case before them and I am positive of a solution as the tie was unfairly awarded against us," Qureshi told a press conference.

"It seemed the referee was not working for the ITF but for New Zealand and he was clearly partial and unjust."

The area declared unplayable was outside the lines of the court, he added.

Qureshi paired with India's Rohan Bopanna, dubbed the "Indo-Pak express", to reach the final of US Open doubles in 2010, where they lost to the American Bryan brothers.

Football: Bayern beat Juventus to book semi-final spot



TURIN (AFP) - Bayern Munich players celebrate after defeating Juventus 2-0 during the UEFA Champions League quarter final second-leg football match Juventus vs FC Bayern Munich at the Juventus Stadium in Turin on April 10, 2013.

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MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	05	02	.714	--
YANKEES	04	04	.500	1.5
BALTIMORE	03	04	.429	2.0
TAMPA	03	05	.375	2.5
TORONTO	02	05	.286	3.0
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
KANSAS	05	03	.625	--
CHICAGO	04	03	.571	0.5
DETROIT	04	03	.571	0.5
MINNESOTA	04	04	.500	1.0
CLEVELAND	03	05	.375	2.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	06	02	.750	--
OAKLAND	06	02	.750	--
SEATTLE	06	05	.444	2.5
LA ANGELES	02	05	.286	3.5
HOUSTON	02	06	.250	4.0

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	07	01	.857	--
WASHINGTON	05	02	.714	1.5
NY METS	05	03	.625	2.0
PHILADELPHIA	03	05	.375	4.0
MIAMI	01	07	.125	6.0
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CINCINNATI	05	03	.625	--
ST. LOUIS	04	04	.500	1.0
CHICAGO	03	05	.375	2.0
PITTSBURG	03	05	.375	2.0
MILWAUKEE	02	06	.250	3.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB
COLORADO	05	03	.625	--
SAN FRANCISCO	05	03	.625	--
ARIZONA	05	03	.625	--
DODGERS	04	03	.571	0.5
SAN DIEGO	02	05	.286	2.5

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NBA: Anthony's Knicks clinch Atlantic division title

NEW YORK (AFP) - The New York Knicks clinched their first Atlantic Division title since 1994 on Tuesday as they routed the Washington Wizards 120-99 with another scorching scoring display from Carmelo Anthony.

The red-hot Anthony finished with 36 points, eight rebounds and six assists, as the Knicks won their 13th straight game.

"It says a lot about our team," said Anthony, who became the first Knicks player to post five straight games with 35 or more points since Bernard King in 1985. "We reached one of our goals. We are now going to try and prepare for the post-season."

The NBA's scoring leader

heading into the contest, Anthony shot 13-of-21 from the floor and three-of-four from three-point range Tuesday at Madison Square Garden arena.

Iman Shumpert added 18 points on seven-of-10 shooting from the field, while J.R. Smith and Chris Copeland each came off the bench to score 17 points for the Knicks, who equalled a franchise record with 20 three-pointers.

John Wall led the Wizards with 33 points. Cartier Martin came off the bench to score 16 points for Washington who lost their third game in the last four and 10th straight at Madison Square Garden.

It marks the Knicks first Atlantic Division crown in 19



years when they eventually lost in the NBA finals to the Houston Rockets.

The Knicks started quickly Tuesday, nailing nine-of-12 from beyond the arc in the first

quarter.

New York led by 13 points heading into the second quarter as Anthony, Shumpert, Copeland and Raymond Felton all had two three pointers.

Steve Novak stepped up in the second quarter by making three triples as the Knicks 12 first-half three-pointers matched their most of any half this season.

Anthony scored 21 of his 36 points in a third quarter in which the Knicks outscored Washington 37-28.

The Knicks went on an 11-4 run to open the third as the Knicks extended their lead and ended any hopes of a Wizards comeback.

NBA: China firm sues Jordan for \$8 mn - report



SHANGHAI (AFP) - A Chinese sportswear firm sued by Michael Jordan over unauthorised use of his name has countersued the retired NBA superstar for \$8.0 million for hurting its reputation, state media said Wednesday.

Jordan's original lawsuit against Qiaodan last year alleged the firm deliberately misled Chinese consumers about its ties to the six-time NBA champion. Jordan said he was taking action to preserve ownership of his name and brand.

Jordan has been known in

China by the Chinese name "Qiaodan" since he became a global basketball star in the 1980s.

Qiaodan's products also carry a silhouette of a leaping basketball player, which bears a resemblance to the "Jumpman" logo used by US sporting goods giant Nike's Jordan brand.

Qiaodan Sports Co. Ltd., which sells apparel and shoes, said Jordan misled the public and its customers with his lawsuit, the China Daily newspaper said.

A Shanghai court accepted Jordan's case last year, but has yet to announce a decision, the China Daily said.

The sports star had demanded 50 million yuan (\$8 million) in compensation, China's International Financial News said in a separate report.

Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles in the 1990s and sparked the 1992 Barcelona Olympic US "Dream Team" to gold.



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